



## Joint News Release

Joint Public Relations Team

7:00 a.m., February 10, 2010

### Members of the Joint Public Relations Team:

Rosanne Pack, Delaware Emergency Management Agency, cell (302) 222-6573

Andrea Summers, Office of Highway Safety, cell (302) 943-7293

Jim Westhoff, Delaware Department of Transportation, cell 302-943-3589

Gary Laing, Delaware Department of Transportation, cell 302-242-4499

Lt. Col. Len Gratterer, Delaware National Guard, cell (302) 540-0134

Sgt. Walter Newton, Delaware State Police, cell (302) 841-2553

Cpl. Jeff Whitmarsh, Delaware State Police, cell (302) 986-5188

## Thursday Morning Updates

### *State of Emergency remains in effect at this hour*

Overnight State, County and local emergency officials and responders continued to battle mother nature and the blow she has dealt the First State. Many DelDOT crews in Sussex County worked through the night with State Police and the Delaware National Guard to clear disabled or abandoned vehicles that were blocking the path for emergency responders. Crews in other counties took a brief, but much needed rest.

“Our road crews have been working since the first snowstorm hit last Friday to clear roads statewide and this has been a very long event for them,” said DelDOT spokesperson Gary Laing. “They deserve our thanks and our appreciation for the tireless and in many cases life saving work that they are doing.”

DelDOT reports that most primary roads are passable with at least one lane clear. However secondary roads are mostly snow covered and treacherous. The Governor’s State of Emergency with travel restrictions that went into effect at midnight on Tuesday remains in effect at this hour. “We ask everyone to continue to obey the travel restrictions,” said Andrea Summers, spokesperson for the Delaware Office of Highway Safety. “Those who don’t are becoming part of the problem as they become disabled along roadways forcing emergency crews to come rescue them.” Overnight there were over 200 additional reports of disabled vehicles many in Sussex County.

Currently there are reports of a large number of trucks abandoned/stuck in the Rt. 301 area near Middletown. Roads are blocked and even DelDOT and National Guard crews are having

difficulty getting through. Again this is also creating issues for medical responders attempting to get to those who need their services. The National Guard who has 300 soldiers and airmen on duty spent much of the night assisting with transportation of those who needed to get to shelter or safety.

The latest storm has created a host of other problems including reports of structural damage to roofs and buildings as well as power continued power outages. Delaware Emergency Management officials are asking that you continue to monitor your own structures for signs of failure, but don't attempt at this time to clear it on your own. High winds will continue to pose an issue for power crews who are working to restore electricity to those without service. Currently, there are 5,339 without power in NcCo, 489 without power in Sussex and 159 without power in Kent.

Shelters remain open at William Penn High School in New Castle, Milford Middle School in Kent and Sussex Central High School near Georgetown. When going to a shelter, people should remember to take their own bedding, such as sleeping bags, air mattresses and pillows. Quiet games and diversions for children should also be brought along, along with snacks or special food needs for adults and children. Personal grooming items and medications should also be brought to the shelter.

Parents with infants need to bring such items as diapers, wipes, formula and other needs as they are not provided at shelters and should be brought in when arriving. Transportation can be arranged for those unable to get to a shelter on their own. Call the Delaware Helpline at **1-800-464-4357** to make arrangements until 9 p.m. or the County Emergency Operations Centers at **(302) 576-3914** for the Wilmington EOC and **(302) 395-2700** for the NcCo EOC.

The Delaware Helpline will again be operational starting at 7:30 a.m. for non-emergency calls. Please continue to check the State website at [www.delaware.gov](http://www.delaware.gov) for updates on the State of Emergency.

###

Sign up to receive Twitter updates from the Delaware PIO Team: <http://twitter.com/destorminfo>